

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please add the following *new* paragraph on page 1, between lines 2 and 3:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This U.S. National stage application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. §119(a) to Japanese Patent Application No. 2004-227662, filed in Japan on August 4, 2004, the entire contents of which are hereby incorporated herein by reference.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 11 with the following rewritten version:

Conventionally, there has been a refrigerating apparatus disposed with a vapor compression-type refrigerant circuit including a heat exchanger configured such that refrigerant flows in from below and flows out from above as an evaporator of the refrigerant (e.g., see ~~Patent Document 1~~ Japanese Patent Application Publication No. S63-204074). In order to prevent refrigerating machine oil from accumulating inside the evaporator, the refrigerating apparatus is configured to extract, from the vicinity of the surface of the refrigerant, the refrigerating machine oil accumulating in a state where it floats on the surface of the refrigerant as a result of the refrigerating machine oil and the refrigerant separating into two layers because the specific gravity of the refrigerating machine oil is smaller than that of the refrigerant, and to return the refrigerating machine oil to the intake side of the compressor.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 21 with the following rewritten version:

Further, as an example of a refrigerating apparatus disposed with a vapor compression-type refrigerant circuit, there is an air conditioner that is capable of a simultaneous cooling and heating operation and is disposed with a vapor compression-type refrigerant circuit capable of switching that causes heat source heat exchangers and utilization heat exchangers to function separately as evaporators or condensers of the refrigerant (e.g.,

see ~~Patent Document 2~~ Japanese Patent Application Publication No. H03-260561). In this air conditioner, plural heat source heat exchangers are disposed, and expansion valves are disposed such that they can regulate the flow rate of the refrigerant flowing into the heat source heat exchangers. Additionally, in this air conditioner, when the heat source heat exchangers are caused to function as evaporators during a heating operation or during the simultaneous cooling and heating operation, for example, control is conducted to reduce the evaporating ability by reducing the openings of the expansion valves as the air conditioning load of the utilization heat exchangers becomes smaller. Moreover, when the air conditioning load of the utilization heat exchangers becomes extremely small, control is conducted to reduce the evaporating ability by closing some of the plural expansion valves to reduce the number of heat source heat exchangers functioning as evaporators or to reduce the evaporating ability by causing some of the plural heat source heat exchangers to function as condensers to offset the evaporating ability of the heat source heat exchangers functioning as evaporators.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 5 with the following rewritten version:

Further, in the aforementioned air conditioner, when the heat source heat exchangers are caused to function as condensers during a cooling operation or during the simultaneous cooling and heating operation, for example, control is conducted to reduce the condensing ability by increasing the amount of liquid refrigerant accumulating inside the heat source heat exchangers and reducing the substantial heat transfer area by reducing the openings of the expansion valves connected to the heat source heat exchangers as the air conditioning load of the utilization heat exchangers becomes smaller. However, when control is conducted to reduce the openings of the expansion valves, there has been the problem that there is a tendency for the refrigerant pressure downstream of the expansion valves (specifically, between the expansion valves and the utilization heat exchangers) to drop and become unstable, and control to reduce the condensing ability of the heat source heat exchangers cannot be stably conducted. In order to counter this problem, control has been proposed to raise the refrigerant pressure downstream of the expansion valves by disposing a pressurizing circuit that causes high-pressure gas refrigerant compressed by the compressor to merge with

refrigerant whose pressure has been reduced in the expansion valves and is sent to the utilization heat exchangers (e.g., see ~~Patent Document 3~~ Japanese Patent Application Publication No. H03-129259).

Please remove the paragraph at page 2, line 21 as follows:

~~—————<Patent Document 1>~~
~~—————Japanese Patent Application Publication No. S63-204074~~
~~—————<Patent Document 2>~~
~~—————Japanese Patent Application Publication No. H03-260561~~
~~—————<Patent Document 3>~~
~~—————Japanese Patent Application Publication No. H03-129259~~

Please replace the heading at page 2, line 27, with the following rewritten version:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION ~~DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION~~

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 27 with the following rewritten version:

An air conditioner pertaining to a first aspect of the present invention is disposed with a refrigerant circuit, a first bypass circuit, and an oil returning circuit. The refrigerant circuit includes a compressor, a heat source heat exchanger configured such that refrigerant flows in from below and flows out from above when the heat source heat exchanger functions as an evaporator of the refrigerant, utilization heat exchangers, a liquid refrigerant pipe that connects the heat source heat exchanger and the utilization heat exchangers, and an expansion valve disposed in the liquid refrigerant pipe, with the refrigerant circuit being capable of switching to cause the heat source heat exchanger and the utilization heat exchangers to function separately as evaporators or condensers of the refrigerant. The first bypass circuit can bypass the refrigerant discharged from the compression mechanism to an intake side of the compression mechanism. The oil returning circuit connects a lower portion of the heat source heat exchanger and the intake side of the compression mechanism. Additionally, the

air conditioner conducts an oil recovery operation where, when the heat source heat exchanger is caused to function and operates as an evaporator, the refrigerant discharged from the compression mechanism is bypassed to the intake side of the compression mechanism via the first bypass circuit, operation is switched to an operation causing the heat source heat exchanger to function as a condenser, and the expansion valve is closed, whereby the refrigerant discharged from the compression mechanism is caused to flow into the heat source heat exchanger, and refrigerating machine oil accumulating inside the heat source heat exchanger is returned to the intake side of the compression mechanism via the oil returning circuit.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 7 with the following rewritten version:

An air conditioner pertaining to a second aspect of the present invention is disposed with a refrigerant circuit, a first bypass circuit, and an oil returning circuit. The refrigerant circuit includes a compressor, a heat source heat exchanger configured such that refrigerant flows in from below and flows out from above when the heat source heat exchanger functions as an evaporator of the refrigerant, utilization heat exchangers, a liquid refrigerant pipe that connects the heat source heat exchanger and the utilization heat exchangers, an expansion valve disposed in the liquid refrigerant pipe, a heat source switch mechanism that is capable of switching between a condensation operation switched state that causes the heat source heat exchanger to function as a condenser of the refrigerant discharged from the compression mechanism and an evaporation operation switched state that causes the heat source heat exchanger to function as an evaporator of the refrigerant flowing through the liquid refrigerant pipe, a high-pressure gas refrigerant pipe that is connected between an intake side of the compression mechanism and the heat source switch mechanism and can branch the refrigerant discharged from the compression mechanism before the refrigerant flows into the heat source switch mechanism, utilization switch mechanisms that are capable of switching between a cooling operation switched state that causes the heat source heat exchanger to function as an evaporator of the refrigerant flowing through the liquid refrigerant pipe and a heating operation switched state that causes the heat source heat exchanger to function as a condenser of the refrigerant flowing through the high-pressure gas refrigerant pipe, and a

low-pressure gas refrigerant pipe that sends the refrigerant evaporated in the utilization heat exchangers to the intake side of the compression mechanism. The first bypass circuit can bypass the refrigerant discharged from the compression mechanism to the intake side of the compression mechanism. The oil returning circuit connects a lower portion of the heat source heat exchanger and the intake side of the compression mechanism. Additionally, the air conditioner conducts an oil recovery operation where, when the heat source switch mechanism is caused to function and operates as an evaporator, the refrigerant discharged from the compression mechanism is bypassed to the intake side of the compression mechanism via the first bypass circuit, the heat source switch mechanism is switched to the condensation operation state, and the expansion valve is closed, whereby the refrigerant discharged from the compression mechanism is caused to flow into the heat source heat exchanger, and refrigerating machine oil accumulating inside the heat source heat exchanger is returned to the intake side of the compression mechanism via the oil returning circuit.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 6 with the following rewritten version:

An air conditioner pertaining to a third aspect of the present invention comprises the air conditioner pertaining to the first or second aspect of the present invention, wherein a second bypass circuit that is connected between the utilization heat exchangers and the expansion valve and can branch the refrigerant from the liquid refrigerant pipe and send the refrigerant to the intake side of the compression mechanism is disposed in the liquid refrigerant pipe.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 14 with the following rewritten version:

An air conditioner pertaining to a fourth aspect of the present invention comprises the air conditioner pertaining to the third aspect of the present invention, wherein a receiver that is connected between the utilization heat exchangers and the expansion valve and accumulates the refrigerant flowing through the liquid refrigerant pipe is further disposed in the liquid refrigerant pipe. The second bypass circuit is disposed such that it sends the

refrigerant from an upper portion of the receiver to the intake side of the compression mechanism.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 25 with the following rewritten version:

An air conditioner pertaining to a fifth aspect of the present invention comprises the air conditioner pertaining to any of the first to fourth aspects of the present invention inventions, wherein the heat source heat exchanger uses, as a heat source, water supplied at a constant amount without relation to the control of the flow rate of the refrigerant flowing inside the heat source heat exchanger.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 3 with the following rewritten version:

An air conditioner pertaining to a sixth aspect of the present invention comprises the air conditioner pertaining to any of the first to fifth aspects of the present invention inventions, wherein the heat source heat exchanger is a plate heat exchanger.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 16 with the following rewritten version:

An air conditioner pertaining to a seventh aspect of the present invention is disposed with a refrigerant circuit and an oil returning circuit. The refrigerant circuit includes a compressor, a heat source heat exchanger configured such that refrigerant flows in from below and flows out from above when the heat source heat exchanger functions as an evaporator of the refrigerant, and utilization heat exchangers, with the refrigerant circuit being capable of switching to cause the heat source heat exchanger and the utilization heat exchangers to function separately as evaporators or condensers of the refrigerant. The oil returning circuit connects a lower portion of the heat source heat exchanger and an intake side of the compression mechanism. Additionally, the air conditioner conducts an oil recovery operation where, when the heat source heat exchanger is caused to function and

operates as an evaporator, operation is switched to an operation causing the heat source heat exchanger to function as a condenser, the refrigerant discharged from the compression mechanism is caused to flow into the heat source heat exchanger, and refrigerating machine oil accumulating inside the heat source heat exchanger is returned to the intake side of the compression mechanism via the oil returning circuit.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 12 with the following rewritten version:

An air conditioner pertaining to an eighth aspect of the present invention comprises the air conditioner pertaining to the seventh aspect of the present invention, wherein the air conditioner further comprises a first bypass circuit that can bypass the refrigerant discharged from the compression mechanism to an intake side of the compression mechanism. Additionally, during the oil recovery operation, the refrigerant discharged from the compression mechanism is bypassed to the intake side of the compression mechanism via the first bypass circuit.

Please remove the heading at page 13, line 28, as follows:

~~DESCRIPTION OF THE REFERENCE NUMERALS~~

~~1 — Air Conditioner~~

~~12 — Refrigerant Circuit~~

~~21 — Compression Mechanism~~

~~22 — First Switch Mechanism (Heat Source Switch Mechanism)~~

~~23 — Heat Source Heat Exchanger~~

~~24 — Heat Source Expansion Valve (Expansion Valve)~~

~~32, 42, 52 — Utilization Heat Exchangers~~

~~66, 76, 86 — High Pressure Gas Control Valves (Utilization Switch Mechanisms)~~

~~76, 77, 87 — Low Pressure Gas Control Valves (Utilization Switch Mechanisms)~~

~~101 — First Oil Returning Circuit (Oil Returning Circuit)~~

~~102 — First Bypass Circuit~~

~~103 — Second Bypass Circuit~~

Serial No.: New – PCT/ JP2005/013814 Nat'l Phase
Filed: Herewith

Please replace the heading at page 14, line 7, with the following rewritten version:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS ~~BEST~~
~~MODE FOR IMPLEMENTING THE INVENTION~~

Please add the following new heading at page 50, line 2:

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS: